

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a wavelength division multiplex (WDM) optical communications network having a plurality of nodes, each of which comprises a wavelength selective optical cross-connect having a plurality of switching matrices, each switching matrix being provided for switching wavelength channels of a specific wavelength, a method of transmitting information from a start node to a target node includes the steps of applying to respective inputs of switching matrices of the start cross-connect, at least two wavelength channels (working and protection channels) having different wavelengths but which are modulated with the same information; transmitting the working and protection channels to the target cross-connect; and dropping the working and protection channels at outputs of different switching matrices provided for different wavelengths of the target cross-connect.